

### **In the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims.

### **Listing of Claims**

1. (Previously presented) An apparatus for splitting a test piece, comprising:  
a base with a centerline;  
two pillars disposed on the base separated by a fixed first interval to support the test piece, wherein a connection line between the pillars is perpendicular to and divided equally by the centerline; and  
a sliding piece disposed on the base slidable along the centerline, wherein the sliding piece has two fingers parallel to the centerline separated by a second interval, which is smaller than the first interval, and a connection line between the tips of the fingers is perpendicular to and divided equally by the centerline.
2. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base has two pivot points at the both sides of the centerline to install the pillars.
3. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the pivot points are separated by the first interval, which is divided equally by the centerline.
4. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base has a straight groove along the centerline, and the sliding piece has a protrusion movable in the groove along the centerline.

5. (Original) An operating method for the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, comprising the step of:

providing a test piece having a working surface with a target point;

forming two slits separated apart on the working surface and aligned with the target point in a predetermined line;

fixing the test piece on the base with the working surface contacting the pillars and the slits aligned with the centerline of the base;

moving the sliding piece, such that the fingers contacts the test piece; and

pushing the sliding piece to split the test piece along the predetermined line by the fingers of the sliding piece and the pillars.